

J-School search may be in final stage

By Lyle Kendrick
University Editor

A version of the following story ran in the July 7 issue of The Daily Tar Heel. Check dailytarheel.com for updates on this story.

An offer has been made for the position of dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, said Bruce Carney, executive vice chancellor and provost. He would not reveal who had been offered the job.

Susan King, the final candidate to be interviewed and the candidate with the most professional experience, visited the University for the second time July 1.

King declined to say in an interview whether she had received an offer for the position.

"I wanted to come down and understand the community a little better," she said, adding that her first visit was tightly scheduled.

She declined to comment on the specifics of her visit.

King is the vice president of external affairs and director of the Journalism Initiative for the Carnegie Corporation.

She has also held the position of assistant secretary for public affairs in the Department of Labor and has reported for CNN and ABC Radio News.

While King comes from a largely professional background,



Bruce Carney said an offer has been made for the position of dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.



Susan King is the candidate with the most professional experience. King declined to say whether she had been offered the position.

she lacks the academic background of the other candidates.

The other candidates — Carol Pardun, John Pavlik and David Perlmutter — are the heads of the journalism programs at the University of South Carolina, Rutgers University and the University of Iowa, respectively.

Some professors said whether the new dean has a professional or academic background would impact his or her ability to lead.

Chris Roush, a journalism professor, wrote in an email that a dean with a professional background might not fit into a University setting as quickly as someone with an academic background, but could bring a fresh

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Chris Roush,
Journalism professor

perspective to academic issues. "However, given our current situation at the School of Journalism, and the University as a whole, I think it would be better to have someone who has run the academic gauntlet before," he said, citing pressing budgetary issues.

Ryan Thornburg, a journalism professor, said a candidate with a professional background would bring skills like grant writing, but a dean with an academic background would have a better understanding of the tenure process, teaching and managing a university's faculty.

Dulcie Straughan, senior associate dean of the journalism school, became interim dean June 30 after Jean Folkerts stepped down from the position.

She will continue until a new dean is found or June 30, 2012, whichever comes first.

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

Greenbridge faces continued controversy

Two protests lead to arrests and thousands of dollars in damage.

By Chelsey Dulaney
Senior Writer

After months of opposition and financial uncertainty, animosity towards Greenbridge Developments climaxed this summer after two separate protests resulted in four arrests and thousands of dollars in property damage.

The 10-story development was set to go up for sale June 27 after defaulting on its Bank of America loans, but bank spokeswoman Shirley Norton said the foreclosure date will be postponed, giving developers time to find investors to cover their \$28.7 million debt.

"We have postponed the sale and continue to work with the developers to resolve the matter," Norton said in an email.

The development has been an object of controversy because of its location in the historically black and low-income Northside neighborhood.

Lt. Kevin Gunter, spokesman for the Chapel Hill Police Department, said about 25 protesters in the first protest on June 18 caused about \$3,400 of

damage to Greenbridge by spraying Silly String in the lobby and damaging furniture.

Protesters performed a second demonstration on July 2, but no damages or arrests occurred.

'I felt disturbed'

Michael Cohen, a Northside resident, participated in the second protest.

"My goal is to make this project such a hassle that it's difficult to continue," he said.

Opponents of Greenbridge claim that the development, which developers hail as environmentally friendly, is causing gentrification in the Northside neighborhood, forcing long-time residents out in favor of student housing.

"We want to draw attention to the ongoing displacement and exclusion of poor people in Chapel Hill, of which the racist gentrification of the Northside neighborhood is one part," said protest organizer Sarah Johnson in a press release.

Protesting the protesters

Robert Dowling, executive director of the Community Home Trust in Orange County, said he decided to attend the second protest to inform the protesters that there are low-income people living in Greenbridge.

GREENBRIDGE HOSTILITY

With critics citing gentrification issues, Greenbridge has faced its share of problems:

- Rioters caused about \$3,400 of damage to the building's lobby on June 18.
- Vandals spray painted the building in several areas and caused about \$11,000 of damage in January 2010.
- The development experienced its second bomb threat on Feb. 18, 2010.

As dictated by town affordable housing standards, 15 of the development's 97 condominiums are designated affordable housing units, all of which are occupied.


"Part of (the protesters') problem is they think a bunch of rich people live in the building," he said.

Robert Bland, a Durham resident who attended the protest, said he thought the event was ineffective.

"At the end of the day, you're not hurting the people in the building, you're just being a nuisance," he said.

Contact the City Editor at city@dailytarheel.com.

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